

of the encyclopedia appears thorough, evidenced by the fact that most of the entries do not correspond to main entries (which are boldfaced).

Stephen J. Farenga and Daniel Ness' *Encyclopedia of Education and Human Development* (M. E. Sharpe, 2005) also includes valuable sections devoted to social and political issues in education, as well as twenty-five biographies. But the entries are not arranged alphabetically, and, overall, the encyclopedia takes a more theoretical approach to education. Though Rebecca Marlow-Ferguson's *World Education Encyclopedia: A Survey of Educational Systems Worldwide* (Gale, 2002) includes detail on hundreds of countries, the content focuses on the architecture of nations' educational systems, rather than how those systems interface with countries' surrounding cultures. The closest handbook (from a topical standpoint) to the present work is Maureen T. Hallinan's *Handbook of the Sociology of Education* (Kluwer Academic, 2000). It is balanced between theory and practice, yet lacks the unique topical coverage of Provenzo's work. *Encyclopedia of the Social and Cultural Foundations of Education* effectively distills important aspects of American sociology and culture in education. Recommended for academic libraries.—Eric S. Petersen, Assistant Director of Library Services, Dana College, Blair, Nebraska

Encyclopedia of World History. By Marsha E. Ackermann, Michael Schroeder, Janice J. Terry, Jiu-Hwa Lo Upshur, and Mark F. Whitters. Facts On File Library of World History. New York: Facts On File, 2008. 7 vols. alkaline \$650 (ISBN 978-0-8160-6386-4).

Although there is no shortage of world history single- or multi-volume titles already available, the folks at Facts On File have still managed to create a set that could be of use for some libraries. Written to align closely with the College Board's AP World History course, this general reference tool aims to cover the "entire range of human history in chronological order" (vii).

The set consists of seven volumes, of which the final is a collection of primary documents and a master index. Each of the first six volumes covers a specified chronological period, with entries for each period listed in alphabetical order. Each volume also includes an introductory section that gives an overview of five major themes common to each period: food production, scientific and technological developments, social and class relations, trade and cultural exchanges, and urbanization and warfare. The periods covered by each volume of course vary greatly, with the first covering almost nine thousand years as compared to volume 6, which covers only half a century.

Entries include important people, events, cultures, and happenings, as well as more general concepts (for example, The Green Revolution). The entries are straightforward and written without lingo or the assumption of existing knowledge by the user. Both of those characteristics should help the set succeed in reaching its intended target audience, most of whom are not likely to be on the same academic level as the contributors. Cross-references are clearly organized, and

many entries include suggestions for further reading. For anyone interested in learning more about a given subject, these are an excellent inclusion. The length of the entries varies from about one-third of a page to several pages for larger subjects such as Native Americans. Some encyclopedias suffer from making entries on less significant topics too short to be of any use for the user, but this set avoids that problem.

The indexing is well done, and includes not only primary entries but any other subjects that might be included in each entry. It is important to note that the index for each volume is specific to that volume, so users of the set would be well served to consult the master index if they're not completely sure which volume they should be consulting. Each volume also includes a lengthy resource guide.

The final volume is one that may prove of both use and interest. There are a number of primary document sources available, but the large historical range covered in this volume makes it valuable. Starting with the Code of Hammurabi and continuing through to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the volume not only offers sources for research but is an overall enjoyable read for anyone interested in historical sources.

This set should prove valuable, especially to high school libraries and some public libraries. The price may be high for some prospective purchasers, but this is a valuable tool given the scope and the reputation of the publisher. More comprehensive than a work like Oxford's single-volume *A Dictionary of World History*, 2nd ed. (2006) and similar efforts, this is an outstanding work. For those libraries in need of a new multivolume world history set, *Encyclopedia of World History* is an excellent choice.—Craig Shufelt, Director, Fort McMurray Public Library, Alberta

The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Latino Literature. Ed. by Nicolás Kanellos. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 3 vols. alkaline \$299.95 (ISBN 978-0-313-33970-7).

The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Latino Literature, edited by Nicolás Kanellos (professor at the University of Houston and founder of both the literary journal *The Americas Review* and the Hispanic publishing house Arte Público Press), consists of three volumes that are part of the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage project begun in 1990. While the project itself focuses on authors writing from colonial times up to 1960, this encyclopedia provides coverage of Latino literature through the present day. In this work, "Latino" refers to literature produced by authors born in the United States who are of Hispanic origin as well as authors of Hispanic origin who were born in other countries and eventually settled in the United States.

The more than seven hundred signed essays in this encyclopedia are devoted to authors, associations, ethnic and national literatures, genres, historical events, movements, publishers, magazines, and literary topics. For author entries, birth and death dates and other relevant bio-bibliographical, literary, and cultural information are given, and most authors

SOURCES

are also placed within literary, cultural, and historical contexts in the general and thematic articles. Entries are arranged alphabetically and range in length from a single paragraph to forty pages. Each is accompanied by at least one further reading suggestion, and some include black-and-white photographs. An eight-page bibliography and a general index are provided in the third volume, while an alphabetical list of entries and a guide to related topics are provided in the front of volume 1. Additional lists of authors by chronology and ethnic or national heritage would have been helpful, but are not included in this work.

The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Latino Literature provides much more cultural and historical information than its title implies. Articles cover a broad range of topics, entities, and events. For example, "Aesthetic Concepts of Latino Literature," which concentrates on contemporary Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans, and Cuban Americans, includes a discussion of not only literature but other art forms as well. Many other essays dealing with historical events and topics, including those on immigration, U.S. legislation, and various ethnic movements, enrich the reader's understanding of the historical and cultural circumstances that have shaped the writing and lives of U.S. Latinos.

Two reference works devoted to Latino writers that have appeared in the last five years include *Notable Latino Writers* (Salem, 2006) and *Latino and Latina Writers* (Scribner, 2004). *Notable Latino Writers* provides entries on both Latino and Latin American authors and topics. Its author entries are of similar length and breadth to those in *The Greenwood Encyclopedia*, but the latter title provides essays on those Latino authors who are only listed, but not given an essay, in *Notable Latino Writers*. *The Greenwood Encyclopedia* also offers more in-depth coverage of historical and cultural events and topics that have influenced Latino authors. *Latino and Latina Writers* offers more in-depth literary criticism and selective bibliographies for the approximately sixty individual authors included in the two-volume set; however, the coverage of additional authors as well as the many scholarly topical essays provided in *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Latino Literature* make this set a worthwhile additional purchase for those libraries that already own *Latino and Latina Writers*.

School libraries and smaller public libraries may rely on *Notable Latino Writers*, while all academic and larger public libraries should purchase both *Latino and Latina Writers* and *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Latino Literature*.—Eileen Oliver, Librarian, San Antonio College Library, San Antonio, Texas

The Legislative Branch of Federal Government: People, Process, and Politics. By Gary P. Gersham. About Federal Government. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 450p. alkaline \$95 (ISBN 978-1-85109-712-8).

Although the federal government is seemingly ubiquitous, many people have only an elementary understanding of how the legislature functions, how it interacts with the other branches of the government, or the extent to which it has evolved over the years. This timely new offering from

ABC-CLIO's About Federal Government series will provide legal, public administration, political science, and history students as well as interested readers with a unique and in-depth examination of the daily operations of the legislative branch of the U.S. government within the context of its historical evolution.

Written by Gary P. Gersham, assistant professor of history and legal studies at Nova Southeastern University, the book provides a historical overview and focuses on the structure and process of the federal legislature, its functions and powers, politics, interaction with other branches of the federal government, and the people who serve. Gersham's command of the subject is noteworthy and his narrative engaging. Key features include a glossary of concepts and people, bibliographies at the end of chapters, a comprehensive annotated bibliography, primary documents (including significant legal cases), and a generous supply of high-quality illustrations and photographs. Taken together with its companion volume in the series, *The Judicial Branch of the Federal Government: People, Process, and Politics* (ABC-CLIO, 2007), the two works offer to students a distinctive historical treatment and guide to the inner workings of the federal government from its inception to the present.

There are several interesting textbooks devoted to American government but few comprehensive reference encyclopedias. Two notable and classic works will serve as valuable companion volumes to *The Legislative Branch of Federal Government*. *Congress A to Z*, 5th ed. (CQ Pr., 2008), is an easy-to-use encyclopedic treatment of Congress consisting of more than 250 entries explaining nearly every key feature of the national legislature. Levy, Karst, and Winkler's *Encyclopedia of the American Constitution* (MacMillan, 2000) furnishes a comprehensive guide to constitutional law in the United States. Written by an impressive list of constitutional scholars, judges, lawyers, and historians, it would be a fine addition to nearly any history collection.

Gersham's book will fill an important gap in the reference literature and it will serve as a welcome addition to American historiography. Well written, thorough, and without rival in its coverage and scope, this will undoubtedly become the premier reference encyclopedia on the subject. As such, it is highly recommended for all undergraduate and large public libraries—Vincent P. Tinerella, Public Services Librarian, Arkansas Tech University, Russellville

The Old West: History and Heritage. Ed. by Edward Countrymen. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2008. 11 vols. alkaline \$359.95 (ISBN 978-0-7614-7829-4).

Published to bring alive the American West to its readers, this multivolume encyclopedia chronicles the years from 1787, when the Northwest Ordinance defined how the western wilderness would be absorbed into the United States, to 1912, the year New Mexico and Arizona joined the Union. These 11 volumes contain 193 articles on about 1,200 pages by recognized scholars that explore the history of the West and its enduring social and cultural effect on the rest of the nation.